

Waterford Academy
Waterford, Pennsylvania

HABS No. Pa.-54

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PHOTOGRAPHS,
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Karl E. Morrison, District Officer
319 Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pennsylvania

WATERFORD ACADEMY
Waterford, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Owner.

Borough of Waterford School Board.

Date of Erection

1822.

Architect

Unknown.

Builder

Unknown.

Present Condition

Fairly good, being used for school purposes.

Number of Stories:

Two, with attic and basement.

Materials of Construction:

Blue shale, sandstone, brick, clear glass, slate, native woods.

Other Existing Records:

Historical, Court and other records.

Additional Data-Bibliography:

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Warner Beers and Co. 1884.

A Twentieth Century history of Erie County, Pennsylvania-Chicago-1909. The Lewis Publishing Co. John Miller, historian.

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania, 2 Vols. Historical Publishing Company 1925. Topeka--Indianapolis, by J. E. Reed (John Elmer).

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Lippincott Co. 1861 by L. G. Sanford (Laura G.) Published by author and copyrighted by her in 1894.

Nelson's biographical dictionary and historical reference book of Erie County, Pennsylvania, Erie, 1896. Two-thirds of this book of Benjamin Whitman. From the press of Wilson, Humphryes and Co. Fourth Street, Logansport, Indiana.

Newspapers: Erie Daily Times, Erie Dispatch-Herald, Erie Observer. (Newspaper files of Erie Public Library).

WATERFORD ACADEMY
Waterford Borough, Erie County, Pennsylvania

At the sale of reserved lands in 1780, the State of Pennsylvania set apart Five Hundred acres near Waterford, Erie, Franklin and Warren, Pennsylvania for the benefit of schools and academies.

The Waterford Academy was incorporated in 1811, and the Legislature of Pennsylvania appointed the following trustees at the time of the incorporation: John Vincent, John Boyd, John Lytle, Aaron Himrod, Charles Martin, Henry Colt and Amos Judson. The acres assigned by the State were located on the flats at the mouth of the LeBoeuf Creek. The school was endowed with fifteen in-lots, and an additional eight other in-lots in 1821. The lands assigned were disposed of about 1840. The original building was completed in 1822, and the first school was opened in it in 1826. In 1899 this Academy was turned over to the Borough School Board of Waterford, Pennsylvania and became the high school for the borough.

John Wood was the first principal of the academy in 1826, and was followed by more than a score of principals until the breaking out of the Civil War in 1861. Notable among those who taught was Andrew H. Gaughey, who later conducted a book store in Erie, Pennsylvania, was deputy collector of customs and who subsequently became a Presbyterian minister.

The original part of this academy is of blue shale or sandstone and has much that is colonial in its architecture. It is a two story and basement building with a colonial doorway at the right front, reached by a flight of seven stone steps. The doorway is perhaps the most impressive feature of the building, and indicates a Grecian Doric influence, with its stone fan arch, its two stone pillars with panels on each side of the opening, the upper portion of which is fitted with glass, while the lower is of stone.

A belfry of Octagonal shape rises from the slate roof. The windows on the first floor have arched tops while those on the second and attic floors have square tops. The date of erection MDCCLXXII is chiseled in Roman figures in the stone.

The interior has been remodeled to suit the times. In 1859 a brick addition was added to the building on the north, and later an auditorium was built to the south. The academy is located at the corner of 4th and Cherry Streets in the town of Waterford, Pennsylvania, facing the parks to the west, and a block from the main thoroughfare, from which a good view of the school may be obtained.

Many prominent names have been enrolled in the past years on the student list of the academy. At present the school specializes in teaching agricultural subjects to both sexes.

Approved

Amie Scott Baxter
Karl Morrison *Ex Off.*
July 27, 1936.

Reviewed July 27, 1936 TWA